



PHOTOVOICE NARRATIVES:

Quality Housing



Boy in a Luchador Mask

This photo was taken September 3rd at World Fest on the Belvedere downtown. Fitting to see a boy playing in the fountain wearing a Luchador Mask at World Fest; as Luchador masks are truly 'worldly' getting their start in France in the mid 1800s before being introduced to the U.S. by wrestler Theobaud Bauer in the 1870s, and making its way to Mexico (via Texas) in the 1930s.

I grew up downtown on Market Street. In the 1970s my sister broke her nose on that very fountain (although back then the platforms were round and not square). Also back then the Neighborhood was not called Nulu. it had many

names, the Point, East Market District, and also the East End. Obviously as the town grew east so with it went the name. I spent my days after school at the East End Boys and Girls Club in Butchertown. As the neighborhood became gentrified the working families that lived there for generations were pushed west and south, and with it went the community centers like the Wesley House (that had been in Butchertown for over 100 years) and the Boys and Girls Club (the first in Kentucky). The gentrification grew past Butchertown and Nulu and is working its way through the west end and also south through Old Louisville. Before long the hard working multicultural families that spent generations in these neighborhoods will be pushed further and further away from the city center becoming more and more isolated as wealthy groups take advantage of lost cost historical architecture and the convenience of centralized living. Before long the only multiculturalism to be seen downtown will be at the annual World fest, unless it too is relocated further south. The feeling of an oncoming homogenization of downtown is represented in this photograph of a blissful boy in his Luchador mask while Caution tape looms over the foreground.



Family on 6th Street

I live on 6th street at Oak. I was raised in Butchertown and have slowly been pushed further and further south by gentrification, partially endorsed by the mayor and city 'leaders' like [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Real Estate speculation has a wider margin of return than traditional investments. It punishes low income families that cannot afford to own, but rent. I was happy on 6th street. It felt like how downtown was when I was a boy; families from many different cultural backgrounds. In this photograph taken from my bedroom window on June 6th of this year shows three generations of a family living next door. A father helping his daughter

fix her motorcycle as the granddaughter sits happily on their lap. They no longer live next door, in fact more than half of the people on my block have moved out this year as the apartment buildings got bought up sight unseen by out of town investors who slapped some paint around and advertised luxury downtown apartment s. My building is now exclusively an AirBNB except for my apartment, and it won't be long now before I am sent on my further south.



A Decent Place to Live

This large vacant home on Chestnut Street represents the housing crisis. Vacancy is more prevalent in some Louisville areas than others, which contributes to low home values, low investment, and higher crime. Improving the housing stock is a great opportunity to transform neighborhoods and offer opportunities to people of all ages to gain wealth and security. As I struggle with gaining homeownership, I am hopeful that one day everyone can have a safe, decent place to live, that they own and can pass on to their children as means of giving them a better life too.



Phoenix Hill Neighborhood - diversity among neighbors

This is a photo taken in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood of Louisville. It represents, to me, a place of hope in our city since there is such a range of socioeconomic levels peacefully coexisting in the neighborhood. The picture may just look like an apartment building next to another apartment complex - common sites in most local neighborhoods. But here, the 3-story apartment building houses upscale condominiums while the adjacent apartment complex is comprised of

housing options for low income families in our community. Some of the low income housing units are owned by the inhabitants, some are rentals subsidized by government vouchers. It represents a tangible example of how people of different backgrounds can harmoniously live together.